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## Artist Synthia SAINT JAMES Honored in Senate Woman of the Year Ceremony

Sacramento---Sen. Mark Ridley-Thomas chose artist Synthia SAINT JAMES to be honored in the California Senate Woman of the Year Ceremony held on the Senate Floor on March 10, 2008.

SAINT JAMES is an internationally acclaimed and award winning artist and the designer of the first U.S. Postal Stamp for the Kwanzaa holiday. Her work also graces the covers of more than 60 books including Terry McMillan's *Waiting to Exhale* and *Disappearing Acts* and Iyanla Vanzant's *Acts of Faith* and *Faith in the Valley*.

"Synthia SAINT JAMES is an innovative and trailblazing, self-taught artist whose brilliant art captures the diverse cultures of the world and helps us envision unity," said Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas.

SAINT JAMES' architectural designs include a 150-foot ceramic tile mural for Ontario, California's International Airport, six 9x4foot elevator doors for a building in California State Capitol's East End Complex, stained glass windows for the West Tampa Library in Tampa, Florida and a 4x7 foot ceramic tile mural (inspired by Maya Angelou's "On the Pulse of Morning"), for Cowan Elementary School in Westchester, California.

She was also commissioned to create the 3x6 foot painting that hangs in the Women's Center of Glendale Memorial Hospital in Glendale, CA.

The Los Angeles County Commission for Women honored SAINT JAMES with the 2004 Woman of the Year Award in Education and she was a recipient of The History Makers Award.

SAINT JAMES is a self-taught artist and credits the Creator and her ancestry (which includes African American, Native American, Haitian and German Jew) for her artistic gifts.

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